NUMB. CXCI.

The SPECTATOR.

——ξυλὸν ὄνειρον. Hom.

Tuesday, October 9. 1711.

SOME ludicrous Schoolmen have put the caſe, that if an Aſs were placed between two bundles of Hay, which affected his Senſes equally on each ſide, and tempted him in the very ſame degree, whether it would be poſſible for him to Eat of either. They generally determine this Queſtion to the Diſadvantage of the Aſs, who they ſay would Starve in the midſt of Plenty, as not having a ſingle Grain of Freewill to determine him more to the one than to the other. The bundle of Hay on either ſide ſtriking his Sight and Smell in the ſame proportion, would keep him in a perpetual Equipoence, like the two Magnets which Travellers have told us, are placed one of them in the Roof, and the other in the Floor of *Mahomet*'s Sleeping Place at *Mecca*, and by that means, ſay they, make the Impoſtor's Iron Coffin with ſuch an equal Attraction, that it hangs in the Air between both of them. As for the Aſs's Behaviour in ſuch nice Circumſtances, whether he would Starve ſooner than violate his Neutrality to the two bundles of Hay, I ſhall not preſume to determine; but only take Notice of the Conduct of our own Species in the ſame Perplexity. When a Man has a mind to venture his Mony in a Lottery, every Figure of it appears equally alluring, and as likely to ſucceed as any of its fellows. They all of them have the ſame Pretenſions to good Luck, ſtand upon the ſame foot of Competition, and no manner of Reaſon can be given why a Man ſhould prefer one to the other before the Lottery is drawn. In this Caſe therefore Caprice very often acts in the Place of Reaſon, and forms to it ſelf ſome Groundleſs Imaginary Motive, where real and ſubſtantial ones are wanting. I know a well-meaning Man that is very well pleaſed to riſque his good Fortune upon the Number 1711, becauſe it is the Year of our Lord. I am acquainted with a Tacker that would give a good deal for the Number 134. On the contrary I have been told of a certain Zealous Diſſenter who being a great Enemy to Popery, and believing that bad Men are the moſt fortunate in this World, will lay two to one on the Number 1666 againſt any other Number, becauſe, ſays he, it is the Number of the Beaſt. Several would prefer the Number 12000 before any other, as it is the Number of the Pounds in the great Prize. In ſhort, ſome are pleaſed to find their own Age in their Number; ſome that they have got a Number which makes a pretty Appearance in the Cyphers, and others becauſe it is the ſame Number that ſucceeded in the laſt Lottery. Each of theſe, upon no other Grounds, thinks he ſtands faireſt for the great Lot, and that he is poſſeſſed of what may not be improperly called the *Golden Number*.

Theſe Principles of Election are the Paſtimes and Extravagances of Human Reaſon, which is of ſo buſie a Nature, that it will be exerting it ſelf in the meaneſt Trifles, and working even when it wants Materials. The wiſeſt of Men are ſometimes acted by ſuch unaccountable Motives, as the Life of the Fool and the Superſtitious is guided by nothing elſe.

I am ſurprized that none of the Fortune-tellers, or as the *French* call them, the *Diſeurs de bonne avanture*, who Publiſh their Bills in every Quarter of the Town, have not turned our Lotteries to their Advantage; did any of them ſet up for a Caſter of Fortunate Figures, what might he not get by his pretended Diſcoveries and Predictions?

I remember among the Advertiſements in the *Poſt-Boy* of *September* the 27th, I was ſurprized to ſee the following one.

This is to give Notice, That Ten Shillings over and above the Market Price, will be given for the Ticket in the 1500000*l. Lottery, No.* 132, *by Nath. Cliff at the Bible and Three Crowns in Cheapſide.*

This Advertiſement has given great Matter of Speculation to Coffee-houſe Theoriſts. Mr. *Cliff*'s Principles and Converſation have been canvaſſed upon this Occaſion, and various Conjectures made, why he ſhould thus ſet his Heart upon Number 132. I have examined all the Powers in thoſe Numbers, broken them into Fractions, extracted the Square and Cube Root, divided and multiplied them all ways, but could not arrive at the Secret till about three Days ago, when I received the following Letter from an unknown Hand; by which I find that Mr. *Nathaniel Cliff* is only the Agent, and not the Principal, in this Advertiſement.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Am the Perſon that lately advertiſed I would 'give ten Shillings more than the Current Price 'for the Ticket N° 132 in the Lottery now Draw-'ing,

'ing, which is a Secret I have communicated to 'ſome Friends, who rally me inceſſantly upon 'that account. You muſt know I have but one 'Ticket, for which Reaſon, and a certain Dream 'I have lately had more than once, I was reſolved 'it ſhould be the Number I moſt approved. I am 'ſo poſitive I have pitched upon the great Lot, that 'I could almoſt lay all I am worth on't. My Viſions are ſo frequent and ſtrong upon this Occaſion, that I have not only poſſeſſed the Lot, but diſpoſed of the Mony which in all probability it will ſell for. This Morning, in particular, I ſet up an 'Equipage which I look upon to be the gayeſt in 'the Town. The Liveries are very Rich, but not 'Gaudy. I ſhould be very glad to ſee a Speculation or two upon Lottery Subjects, in which you 'would oblige all People concerned, and in particular

Your moſt humble Servant,

George Goſſling.

P. S. 'Dear SPEC, If I get the 12000 Pound 'I'll make thee a handſome Preſent.

After having wiſhed my Correſpondent good Luck, and thanked him for his intended Kindneſs, I ſhall for this time diſmiſs the Subject of the Lottery, and only obſerve that the greateſt part of Mankind are in ſome degree guilty of my Friend *Goſſling*'s Extravagance. We are apt to rely upon future Proſpects, and become really expenſive while we are only rich in Poſſibility. We live up to our Expectations, not to our Poſſeſſions, and make a Figure proportionable to what we may be, not what we are. We out-run our preſent Income, as not doubting to diſburſe our ſelves out of the Profits of ſome future Place, Project or Reverſion, that we have in view. It is through this Temper of Mind, which is ſo common among us, that we ſee Tradeſmen break, who have met with no Misfortunes in their Buſineſs, and Men of Eſtates reduced to Poverty, who have never ſuffered from Loſſes or Repairs, Tenants, Taxes or Law-ſuits. In ſhort, it is this fooliſh ſanguine Temper, this depending upon Contingent Futurities that occaſions Romantick Generoſity, Chymerical Grundure, Senſeleſs Oſtentation, and generally ends in Beggary and Ruin. The Man, who will live above his preſent Circumſtances, is in great Danger of living in a little time much beneath them, or as the *Italian* Proverb runs, The Man who lives by Hope will die by Hunger.

It ſhould be an indiſpenſable Rule in Life, to contract our Deſires to our preſent Condition, and, whatever may be our Expectations, to live within the compaſs of what we actually poſſeſs. It will be time enough to enjoy an Eſtate when it comes into our Hands; but if we anticipate our good Fortune we ſhall loſe the Pleaſure of it when it arrives, and may poſſibly never poſſeſs what we have ſo fooliſhly counted upon.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Tueſday, being the 9th of October, will be preſented a Play call'd The Spaniſh Fryar, or The Double Diſcovery. The part of the Fryar by Mr. Betterton, Lorenzo by Mr. Wilks, Gomez by Mr. Norris, Elvira by Mrs. Oldfield, Torriſmond by Mr. Powell, Bertran by Mr. Mills, Raymond by Mr. Bowman, Pedro by Mr. Pack, the Queen by Mrs. Knight.

At the Indian Man in Ruſſel-Street Covent-Garden, is a Parcel of rich Jewels, viz. a Brilliant Diamond String and Croſs, Ear-Rings, Rings, Buckles, Pendants, and alſo fine Lace, rich Silks, Muſlins, and other valuable Goods, to be diſpoſ'd of at reaſonable Rates, the whole amounting to 675 l. which, for the Encouragement of Buyers, will be divided into 350 Shares, the biggeſt wherein is 10 l. Value, and the leaſt 10 s. Any one of theſe may be purchaſed for the little Sum of Half a Crown, as may be known more at large at the Place of Sale, where Attendance will be given till all the Goods be ſold. It being very near full, the Shares will be divided the 18th Inſtant without fail, and ſooner if full.

To be ſold by the Merchant at his Houſe in Mincin lane, next Door to Tho. Palmer, Eſq; a freſh Parcel of new French Wines, viz. Orion Claret, at 3 s. a Bottle. Hermitage and Burgundy at 5 s. a Flask; no leſs Quantity than a Dozen.

A Houſe to be Lett in Denmark-ſtreet by St. Giles's Church, well fitted up, with or without a piece of Ground for Coach-houſe and Stables. Enquire at Mr. Harris's, a Corn-chandler at the end of the ſaid Street, or of Mr. John Evans, Bricklayer, at the Iron Rails in Queen ſtreet by the Seven Dyals.

Loſt on Friday the 28th of September, near the Royal Exchange, a middle ſize Italian Greyhound Dog, a Mouſe colour, with 4 white Feet, a white Tip on the end of his Tail, a white Streak down his Forehead, a threeſquare white Spot a little below his Ear on the right ſide of his Neck, and his Noſe ſpotted with Black. Whoever brings him to Mr. Charles Lillie, at the Corner of Beauford Buildings, ſhall Receive half a Guinea reward.

Whereas A. B. received a Letter from C. D. he earneſtly deſires he would come to Town on Thurſday next, and that he will ſend a Friend to A. B. who promiſes he will give full Satisfaction with all Aſſurance to C. D's own deſire.

Having happily experienced upon two of my Children extreamly afflicted by the hard Breeding of their Teeth (one of 'em expoſed to the utmoſt danger of Convulſions, and even hazard of Life) a Medicine prepared by Mr. Perronet, Surgeon, I cannot but acknowledge that the uſe of it was attended with a moſt ſingular Bleſſing, and no leſs remarkable Succeſs. Witneſs my Hand, J. Weldon. The Gentleman lives 6 or 7 Doors off the Chappel in King-ſtreet by Golden Square. The ſaid Medicine is ſold at 2 s. 6 d. the Vial by Mr. Alcraft at the Blew-Coat Boy againſt the Royal Exchange, Charles Mr. Lillie, Perfumer next Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, Mr. Watkins Tobacconiſt againſt the Market, in King-ſtreet Weſtminſter, and by the Author aforeſaid, at his Houſe in Dyot-ſtreet near Bloomsbury.

A moſt incomparable Paſte for the Hands, far exceeding any thing ever yet in Print; It makes them delicately white, ſleek and plump, fortifies them againſt the ſcorching Heat of the Fire or Sun, and Sharpneſs of the Wind. A Hand cannot be ſpoil'd but the Uſe of it will recover them. Sold only at Mr. Alcraft's, Toy-ſhop, over-againſt the Royal-Exchange, at 1 s. 6 d. a Pot, with Directions: Where is ſold the excellent German Powder for the Scurvy in the Gums and Teeth, which by only ſcouring them every Morning, whitens and faſtens the Teeth to a Miracle, as is a Scale.

The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Volls. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Volls. tranſlated by ſeveral hands. Seneca's Morals tranſlated by Sir Roger L'Eſtrange. The Satyrs of Decimus Junius Juvenalis, &c. tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by Mr. Dryden and ſeveral other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Volls. conſiſting of his Plays and Poems. Poems on ſeveral Occaſions written by Mr. Prior. Paradiſe loſt, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Chriſtian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The three laſt are printed with a neat Elziver Letter in ſmall Pocket Volumes: All printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.